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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS
REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES
AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART I. AFRICA

Section 24 - Zimbabwe

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

ZIMBABWE



I.24 ZIMBABWE

1. Beneficiary population

1. Some 1,390 registered Mozambican refugees (vulnerable cases) remained in Zimbabwe at 31 December 1994, in addition to some 800 urban refugees.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) Mozambican repatriation

2. During the course of 1994, the organized repatriation of Mozambicans from five camps within Zimbabwe was nearly completed, with 83,000 refugees repatriating in UNHCR convoys. Consequently, the provision for care and maintenance in the five camps was gradually phased out in line with actual departures. Exceeding UNHCR's initial planning assumptions, the refugee camps were able to be closed and handed over to the Government by the end of 1994, leaving behind only a small group of aged and disabled persons who continued to receive assistance as they were unable or unwilling to repatriate.

3. Between January and May 1995, the Office engaged in a limited operation to repatriate some 23,000 spontaneously settled Mozambicans out of an estimated 100,000 Mozambican nationals who have been residing in Zimbabwe and working mainly as contract labourers. The Office launched a mass information campaign in January and February and provided transport assistance to some 25,000 Mozambicans, a higher number than initially anticipated.

(b) Refugees and asylum-seekers

4. Since early 1995, the Office has succeeded in significantly reducing a backlog of cases which had not yet been determined by the eligibility committee.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

5. The Office will continue to pursue voluntary repatriation as the most desirable durable solution for urban refugees. For a limited number of individual cases, resettlement to a third country will be available according to established criteria.

6. The main emphasis of UNHCR's programme of assistance to urban refugees will be on care and maintenance, combined with elements of local integration activities in those cases where repatriation appears unfeasible in the foreseeable future. In designing its programme of assistance, UNHCR will place a stronger emphasis on self-sufficiency, rather than relying exclusively on the provision of material assistance. Assuming that Zimbabwe will experience further increases in the numbers of new arrivals, the Office will review constantly the assistance

programme and propose necessary qualitative adjustments in response to changes in the caseload. Apart from the expansion of income-generating activities, more emphasis will be placed on the provision of social counselling so as to ensure the smooth integration of urban refugees into society. The Office will also coordinate closely with the UNHCR Regional Office in South Africa to eliminate pull factors in the provision of material assistance.

7. The Office will continue to promote greater awareness of international protection issues, and, jointly with the Government of Zimbabwe, will continue to develop and consolidate Zimbabwe's liberal asylum policy and relevant procedures.

8. In close cooperation with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the office will pursue the objectives identified during the regional UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) consultations, with a special focus on local capacity-building for both programme and protection functions, such as status determination.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

9. The care and maintenance assistance provided to approximately 500 urban refugees/asylum-seekers will include a major allocation in the sectors of domestic needs and income-generation.

(c) Implementing partners

10. The Refugee Services Unit of the Department for Social Welfare will continue to be UNHCR's main implementing partner for the delivery of assistance to urban refugees. The Commissioner for Refugees may delegate certain aspects of the implementation to the respective district offices and the management of the Waterfalls transit centre.

11. The International Catholic Migration Council (ICMC) will provide assistance in the income-generation sector upon having completed preparatory activities during 1995.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

12. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

13. The 1994 Programme Delivery and Administrative Support expenditure was some 24 per cent lower than the revised estimates, primarily under staffing costs. Given the exigencies of the massive voluntary repatriation movements to Mozambique in 1994, a number of staff members agreed to defer their entitlements for leave to the following year.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

14. The revised requirements are considerably lower than the initial estimates. The accelerated repatriation movement and the reduction in care and maintenance assistance for the Mozambican refugees necessitated a concurrent decrease in the Programme Delivery and Administrative Support budgets. Most of the activities in the refugee camps were consolidated by the end of 1994, with the respective phase-out of the posts assigned to them. Assistance for the remaining caseload in the camps as well as the spontaneously settled refugees is expected to end by June 1995, leading to the discontinuation, by September 1995, of all the posts associated with the Mozambican repatriation programme. Other objects of expenditure have also been decreased accordingly.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

15. The initial 1996 Programme Delivery and Administrative Support requirements are significantly lower than the revised 1995 budget, taking into account the phase-out of the care and maintenance programme for the Mozambican refugees. All the operational activities of the voluntary repatriation, as well as the care and maintenance programmes for the Mozambican refugees, will be concluded by June 1995. Only 2 international and 13 local posts will be retained at the Branch Office beyond December 1995 to perform core protection and programme functions. The respective decrease is effected across the various objects of expenditure to reflect the lower staffing level.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN ZIMBABWE

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995	1996		
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
2,171.8	1,330.0	1,203.6	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	512.7
5.4 a/	—	—	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	—
0.3 a/	—	—	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	—
0.6 a/	—	—	RESETTLEMENT	—
446.0	417.6	350.0	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	384.3
2,624.1	1,747.6	1,553.6	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	897.0
36.0	66.2	38.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	64.3
2,660.1	1,813.8	1,592.5	TOTAL (1)	961.3
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
7,390.8	2,603.8	1,984.1	MOZAMBIQUE REPATRIATION	—
491.3	531.4	412.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	6.0
137.8	117.0	99.1	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	—
335.6	204.4	—	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	—
8,355.5	3,456.6	2,496.1	TOTAL (2)	6.0
11,015.6	5,270.4	4,088.6	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	967.3

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

